

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DLOS-06

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01

OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAL-01 /121 W

----- 088984

P R 221620Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7984

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

CINCUSAFE

USDOCOSOUTH

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSNAVEUR

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USAREUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 12453

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU

SUBJECT: BILATERAL GREEK-TURKISH TALKS ON THE AEGEAN DIDCZE

REF: ATHENS 12404

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1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE GREEK MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS RELEASED ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, THE TEXT OF THE BERN AGREEMENT ON THE PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED BY GREECE AND TURKEY ON THEIR TALKS OVER THE DELIMITATION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE AEGEAN SEA. THE TEXT CLOSELY FOLLOWS THE POINTS REPORTED IN REFTEL. (THE TEXT OF THE PARIS FIR TALKS IS EXPECTED TO BE RELEASED LATER TODAY.) THE OPPOSITION WAS QUICK TO CRITICIZE THE BERN AGREEMENT AS UNACCEPTABLE SECRET DIPLOMACY, TO WHICH THE GOG SPOKESMAN REPLIED THAT DIALOGUE AND ARBITRATION ARE BETTER MEANS TO SOLVE INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES THAN IS WAR. END SUMMARY.

2. AN INFORMAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT OF THE PROCES VERBAL IS AS FOLLOWS:
BEGIN TEXT: 1) THE TWO SIDES AGREE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE SINCERE, DETAILED AND CONDUCTED IN GOOD FAITH, WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF REACHING AN AGREEMENT BY MUTUAL CONSENT AS REGARDS THE DELINEATION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF BETWEEN THEM.
2) THE TWO SIDES AGREE THAT, BECAUSE OF THEIR NATURE, THE NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.
3) THE TWO SIDES MAINTAIN THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS REGARDING THE DELINEATION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF.
4) THE TWO SIDES UNDERTAKE THE OBLIGATION NOT TO USE, IN ANY CASE, THE PROVISIONS OF THE PRESENT DOCUMENT AND THE PROPOSALS TO BE SUBMITTED DURING THESE NEGOTIATIONS BY EITHER SIDE OUTSIDE OF THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.
5) THE TWO SIDES AGREE THAT NO STATEMENTS OR LEAKS SHOULD BE MADE TO THE PRESS ON THE CONTENT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, UNLESS DECIDED OTHERWISE BY MUTUAL CONSENT.
6) THE TWO SIDES UNDERTAKE THE OBLIGATION TO REFRAIN FROM ANY INITIATIVE OR ACT RELATED TO THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF WHICH MIGHT HINDER THE NEGOTIATIONS.
7) WITH REGARD TO BILATERAL RELATIONS, THE TWO SIDES UNDERTAKE THE OBLIGATION TO REFRAIN FROM ANY INITIATIVE OR ACT WHICH WOULD TEND TO DIMINISH THE PRESTIGE OF THE OTHER SIDE.
8) THE TWO SIDES AGREED TO STUDY THE PRACTICES OF OTHER STATES AND THE INTERNATIONAL RULES ON THIS SUBJECT IN ORDER TO DRAW FROM THEM CERTAIN PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL CONFIDENTIAL

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CRITERIA WHICH MIGHT BE USED IN THE CASE OF THE DELIMITATION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

9) FOR THIS PURPOSE, A JOINT COMMITTEE WILL BE ESTABLISHED, COMPOSED OF NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES.

10) THE TWO SIDES AGREE TO ADOPT A STEP-BY-STEP RHYTHM IN THE PROCESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AS A RESULT OF CONSULTATIONS TO BE HELD BETWEEN THEMSELVES.

PREPARED IN BERN, IN DUPLICATE, IN THE

FRENCH LANGUAGE, ON NOVEMBER 11, 1976.

SIGNED: THE CHIEF OF THE GREEK DELEGATION, IOANNIS TZOUNIS

THE CHIEF OF THE TURKISH DELEGATION, A. SUAT BILGE.

END TEXT.

3. THE LEADER OF THE PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION PARTY, GEORGE MAVROS OF THE UNION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER, CRITICIZED THE BERN AGREEMENT AND STATED HE FAILED TO SEE WHAT PURPOSE "SECRET NEGOTIATIONS ON THE STATUS OF THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF" WOULD SERVE. HE SAID THERE WOULD BE NO SERIOUS PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR IN TURKEY SINCE THE CONTENDING PARTIES THERE WOULD ONLY ENGAGE IN DEMAGOGY FOCUSING ON THE GREEK-TURKISH NEGOTIATIONS. HE ALSO ALLUDED TO THE PRESENCE ON THE COAST OPPOSITE THE GREEK ISLANDS OF "A GREAT FLEET OF TROOP-LANDING CRAFT AND MILITARY FORCES," AND HE REFERRED TO THE LACK OF GOOD FAITH AND SINCERITY ON THE PART OF THE TURKS IN ANOTHER KEY NEGOTIATION--THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS ON CYPRUS.

4. DEMAGOGIC ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, PRESIDENT OF THE LEFTIST PANHELLENIC SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (PASOK), LAMBASTED THE BERN AGREEMENT BECAUSE HE CLAIMED THAT THE GOG HAD, BY NEGOTIATING AND ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO ARTICLE 8, SURRENDERED ITS POSITION CONCERNING THE BINDING NATURE OF THE 1958 GENEVA CONVENTION ACCORDING TO WHICH THE GOG HAD ARGUED THE GREEK ISLANDS HAD THEIR OWN CONTINENTAL SHELF. PAPANDREOU ALSO ATTACKED THE "SECRET" NATURE OF THE FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS, SAYING THE GOG "UNDERTAKES THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY FURTHER CESSIONS OF NATIONAL SPACE." THE OPPOSITION PRESS LIKEWISE JOINED IN LEVYING CRITICISM AT THE "SECRET" NATURE OF THE TALKS, ALTHOUGH OTHERWISE MEDIA COVERAGE, IN GENERAL, HAS SO FAR BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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LIMITED TO REPORTING THE TEXT OF THE BERN AGREEMENT WITHOUT EDITORIAL COMMENT.

5. COMMENT: THE GOG HAS PORTRAYED THE BERN "PROCEDURES" AGREEMENT IN A POSITIVE FASHION, INDICATING THE RESPONSIBLE NATURE OF THE CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT IN ITS DEALINGS WITH THE TURKS ON EMOTION-LADEN BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE OPPOSITION'S CRITICAL RESPONSE, WHILE FOCUSING AT THIS EARLY DATE ON THE SECRET CHARACTER OF FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF, STEMS FROM THE RECOGNITION THAT WHATEVER ACCOMMODATION WHICH MAY EVENTUALLY BE ACHIEVED BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY ON THE AEGEAN WILL REQUIRE CERTAIN CONCESSIONS FROM THE GREEK SIDE, CONCESSIONS WHICH THE OPPOSITION, ESPECIALLY PAPANDREOU, WILL MAKE EVERY ENDEAVOR TO TURN INTO DOMESTIC POLITICAL LIABILITIES

FOR PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, CONTINENTAL SHELF, PROGRESS REPORTS, AEGEAN, NEGOTIATIONS, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, WATER BOUNDARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ATHENS12453
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760436-0040
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761124/aaaaaup.tel
Line Count: 171
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ATHENS 12404
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <05 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BILATERAL GREEK-TURKISH TALKS ON THE AEGEAN DIDCZE
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006